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## VLAN (virtual LAN)

A VLAN acts like an ordinary LAN, but connected devices don't have to be physically connected to the same segment.

While clients and servers may be located anywhere on a network, they are grouped together by VLAN technology, and broadcasts are sent to devices within the VLAN.

VLANs configured by using Media Access Control addresses can recognize when a station has been moved to another port on a switch. VLAN management software can then automatically reconfigure that station into its appropriate VLAN without the need to change the station's MAC or IP address.

The [802.1Q](#) specification establishes a standard method for inserting VLAN membership information into Ethernet frames. The ability to move endstations to different broadcast domains by setting membership profiles for each port on centrally managed switches is one of the main advantages of [802.1Q](#) VLANs.

### Additional resources

#### [Technical Brief: VLANs](#)

Overview from Intel.

#### [Wireless technology puts users in place](#)

A look at role-based VLANs in wireless networks. Network World, 10/6/03.

#### [Users get innovative with virtual LANs](#)

Network World, 5/27/02.

#### [LAN research center](#)

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